

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 – 17, and 20 – 24 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 – 16 have been allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 4, 7-10, and 22 have been amended and Claims 3, 17 and 20-21 have been cancelled. The Applicants respectfully request the consideration of their remarks and allowance of all remaining claims.

I. Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 9-17 and 20-24 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,520. Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer with this Amendment, which should thereby obviate this rejection.

Claim 1 has been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of copending US Application Serial No. 10/027,843. Although rendered redundant by the terminal disclaimer provided to overcome U.S. Patent No. 6,754,520, Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer to specifically cover the '843 Application. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that Claims 1, 4, 9, 11-16, and 22-24 were solely rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Furthermore, the Office Action indicated that Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

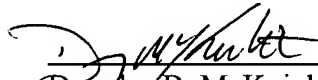
In light of this, Applicants have submitted the requisite terminal disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections. Applicants have also rewritten Claims 4, 9 and 22 in independent form and amended the dependency of Claim 10, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all the claims recite patentable subject matter fully in accordance with statutory requirements and respectfully request the allowance. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/13/05



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